

PATENT
450101-02537

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present response is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4-6, and 10-13 are independent. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 4, 5, 12, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,593,969 to Driscoll, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,243,131 to Martin.

Claims 2, 6-8, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,593,969 to Driscoll, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,243,131 to Martin and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,652,621 to Adams.

Claims 3 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,593,969 to Driscoll, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,243,131 to Martin and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,652,621 to Adams and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,835,138 to Kondo.

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Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“...picture image conversion means for eliminating distortion of the entirety or a portion of the picture image selected by the selector means and for converting it into high quality picture image.” (Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 6,593,969 to Driscoll, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Driscoll”) relates to a panoramic camera apparatus that instantaneously captures a 360-degree panoramic image.

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent 5,652,621 to Adams (hereinafter, merely “Adams”) relates to processing a digitized image signal obtained from an image sensor having a color photosites aligned in rows and columns that generate at least three separate color values, but only one color value for each photosite location.

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 6,243,131 to Martin (hereinafter, merely “Martin”) relates to capturing a directly scanning a rectilinear imaging element using a non-linear scan.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Martin discloses that the values of pixel centers a-f are calculated by the image transform processor 24 based on a weighted average of the values of the pixels centers I-IV as illustrated in the following mathematical expressions:

$$a = (0.6)(.8)I + (0.4)(0.8)II + (0.6)(0.2)III + (0.4)(0.2)IV$$

Each of the weights is just in inverse proportion to a distance between each of pixels (I, II, III, IV) and pixel a. Namely this method is a linear interpolation. Accordingly it is clear that the resolution of the interpolated pixels (a, b, c, d, e, and f) is the same as the resolution of original pixels (I, II, III, IV).

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Therefore Applicants respectfully submit that neither Driscoll nor Martin teach or suggest the above-identified feature of independent claim 1.

Therefore, claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above, independent claims 4, 5, 12, and 13 are also believed to be patentable.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Adams nor Kondo provide the support missing in Driscoll and Martin, and, therefore, independent claims 6, 10, and 11 are also believed to be patentable for similar reasons as those described above.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION


In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

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In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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